

## Overview of DCTAT Data<sup>1</sup> for Recovery Act (ARRA) Mentoring Grantees

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Juvenile Mentoring Grants Program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), supports state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies by funding a number of activities, including: fighting Internet crimes against children, improving the functioning of the criminal justice system, assisting victims of crime, and supporting youth mentoring. Under this solicitation, OJJDP provides awards to local organizations to develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs. These programs can reap considerable positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

This memo provides an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for these grantees as reported through June 30, 2011. The memo is divided into three sections: (1) an examination of program information for ARRA Mentoring grantees; (2) analyses of Recovery and core measures; and (3) an overview of the grantees' narrative responses to questions.

### 1. Examination of Program Information

From July 2009 through December 2010, 30 grantees received ARRA Mentoring funds. During the most recent reporting period, this number dropped to 28, with all grantees completing reporting for their awards (Table 1). The number of subgrantees completing reporting also increased from 100 to 106 during this period. Through all reporting periods, every subgrantee finished reporting (Table 2).

**Table 1. Status of Grantee Reporting by Period**

Reporting Periods	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total
January–June 2009	0	2	0	2
July–December 2009	0	1	29	30
January–June 2010	0	1	29	30
July–December 2010	0	0	30	30
January–June 2011	0	0	28	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> The data reported to OJJDP have undergone system-level validation and verification checks. In addition, OJJDP reviews the aggregate data findings and grantee-level data reports for obvious errors or inconsistencies. A formalized data validation and verification plan is being piloted and will be implemented in all programs by 2012.

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**Table 2. Status of Subgrantee Reporting by Period**

Reporting Periods	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total
January–June 2009	0	0	0	0
July–December 2009	0	0	99	99
January–June 2010	0	0	99	99
July–December 2010	0	0	100	100
January–June 2011	0	0	106	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>404</b>

In examining the award amounts by state, we see that Maryland received the most grant funds, followed by Pennsylvania and Florida (Table 3).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 3. Total Award Amount by State**

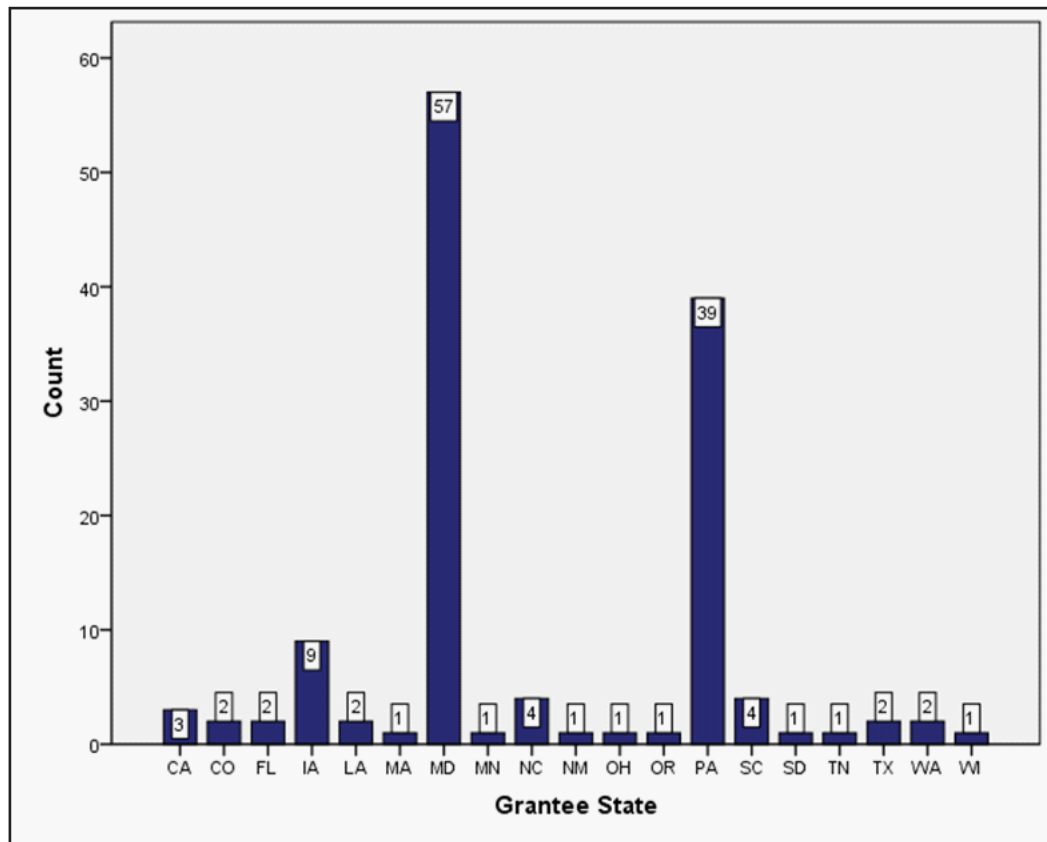
Grantee State	Award Amount
CA	\$1,494,523
CO	\$996,483
FL	\$7,030,450
IA	\$2,364,069
LA	\$982,175
MA	\$499,830
MD	\$35,944,825
MN	\$500,000
NC	\$1,877,974
NM	\$499,998
OH	\$500,000
OR	\$500,000
PA	\$33,773,300
SC	\$596,169
SD	\$499,908
TN	\$500,000
TX	\$998,962
WA	\$1,000,000
WI	\$497,691

<sup>2</sup> Amounts represent the state to which the grant was awarded and do not necessarily indicate the state in which grant money is being used to conduct activities.

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The most grants/subgrants awarded for Recovery Mentoring prevention programs during this period went to Maryland (n = 57), Pennsylvania (n = 39), and Iowa (n = 9). Figure 1, below, presents a state-by-state comparison.

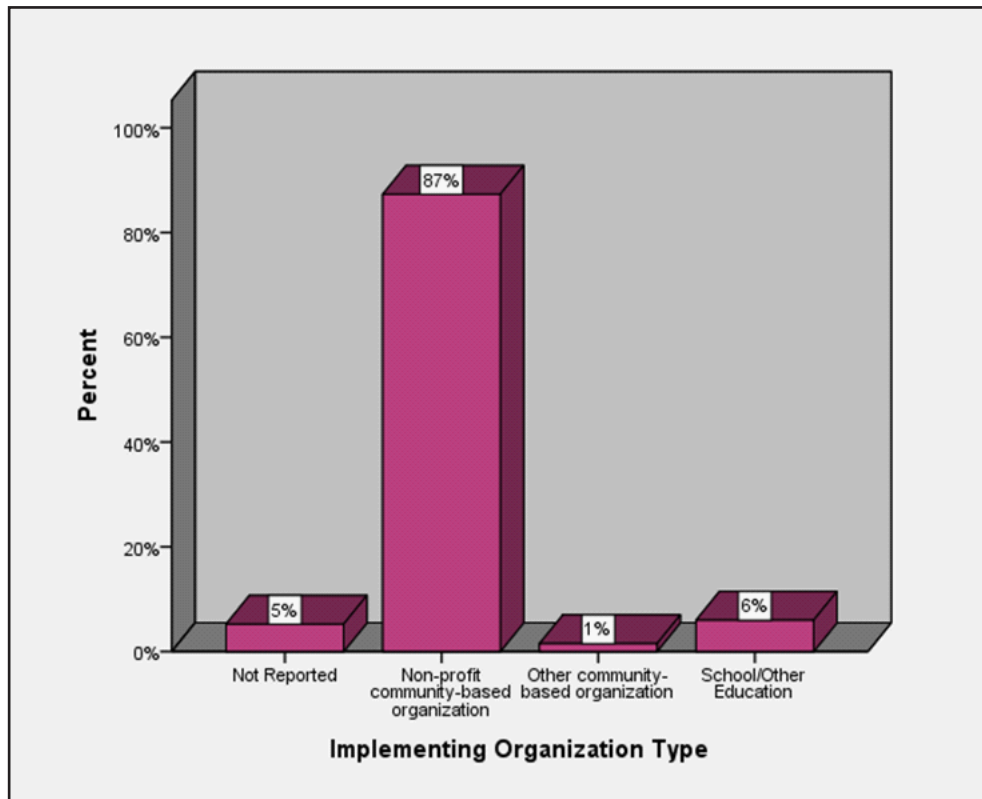
**Figure 1. Grants/Subgrants by State, January–June 2011**



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Analysis of implementing agencies for this period revealed that the majority of programs were implemented by nonprofit, community-based organizations, representing 87 percent of reported implementing organization types (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Implementing Organization Type for January–June 2011 (N = 134)**



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Table 4 provides an aggregate of demographic data during the January–June 2011 reporting period. More specifically, the numbers below represent the population actually served by ARRA Juvenile Mentoring grantees during their project period. Targeted services include any services or approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, and developmentally appropriate services).

**Table 4. Target Population: January–June 2011**

	Population	No. of Grantees Who Served This Group During Project Period
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>	American Indian/Alaskan Native	59
	Asian	51
	Black/African American	119
	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	113
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	19
	Other Race	95
	White/Caucasian	121
	Youth population not served directly	0
<b>JUSTICE</b>	At-Risk Population (no prior offense)	123
	First Time Offenders	92
	Repeat Offenders	69
	Sex Offenders	23
	Status Offenders	62
	Violent Offenders	51
	Youth population not served directly	3
<b>GENDER</b>	Male	126
	Female	122
	Youth population not served directly	0
<b>AGE</b>	0–10	63
	11–18	124
	Over 18	21
	Youth population not served directly	0
<b>GEO</b>	Rural	80
	Suburban	75
	Tribal	14
	Urban	109
	Youth population not served directly	0
<b>OTHER</b>	Mental Health	87
	Substance Abuse	73
	Truant/Dropout	78

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### 2. Analysis of Recovery and Core Measures

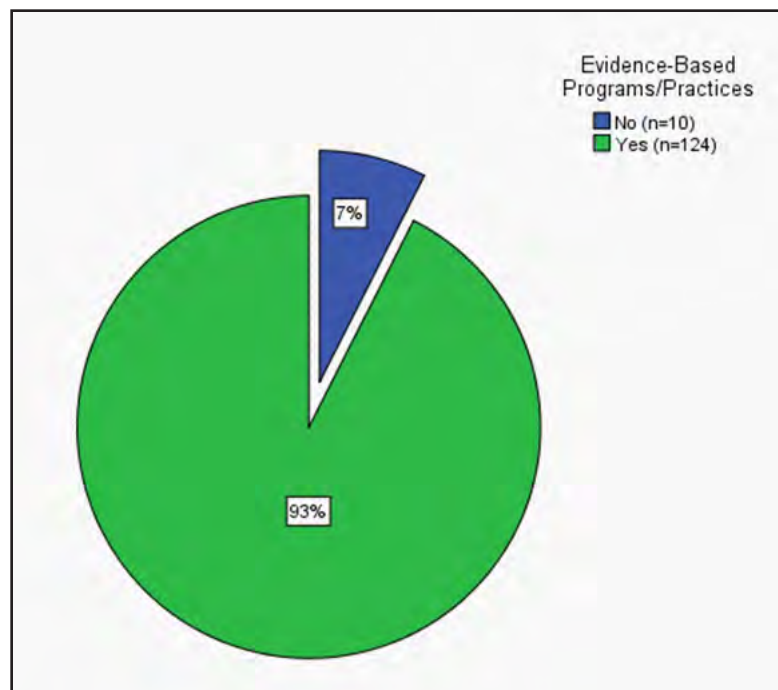
During the January–June 2011 reporting period, 83 percent of essential services were maintained without interruption with Recovery Mentoring funds. Furthermore, 5,811 new essential services were funded and 1,408 services were enhanced due to Recovery Mentoring funds (Table 4).

**Table 4. Recovery Measures**

Percent of essential services maintained without interruption with Recovery Mentoring funds	83%
No. of new essential services funded with Recovery Mentoring funds	5,811
No. of enhanced essential services funded with Recovery Mentoring funds	1,408

During the January–June 2011 reporting period, 93 percent of grantees had implemented evidence-based programs and practices (Figure 3), which amounted to more than \$47 million (\$47,083,479).

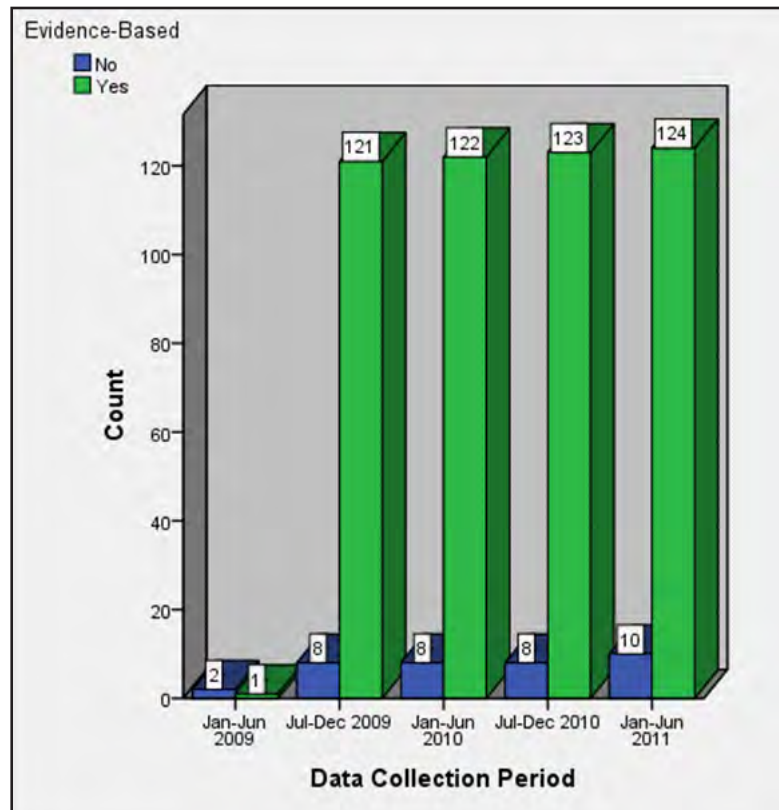
**Figure 3. Percentage of Evidence-Based Programs/Practices for January–June 2011**



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In all, 124 evidence-based programs were implemented during this reporting period, representing 93 percent of the awards under this solicitation. Figure 4 illustrates the number of evidence-based programs or practices by reporting period.

**Figure 4. Evidence-Based Programs/Practices by Reporting Period**



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This next section provides an aggregate of performance measures data. Of the 28,987 youth served by ARRA Juvenile Mentoring grantees, 28,406 (98 percent) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. In addition, 6,335 (74 percent) of the total number of eligible youth exited their programs having completed program requirements. Grantees self-define the requirements needed for a youth to complete the program. At times, the program cannot be completed in the 6-month reporting period. For example, in one program, youth must complete 9 months of mentoring to be considered successful. If a youth exits the program for any reason before 9 months of mentoring, he or she is considered unsuccessful. As described, the lack of a shorter-term program completion definition decreases the overall program completion rate.

Performance indicators on the program mentors were also collected. During this reporting period, 8,328 new program mentors were recruited. Of the 8,021 mentors who received training, 7,914 (99 percent) successfully completed the training. Moreover, 45 percent of mentors reported an increase in program knowledge. Of the 20,460 mentors in the program during the reporting period, 17,240 (84 percent) remained active mentors.

Collaboration with active partners also leads to the success of mentoring programs, and 92 percent of mentoring programs reported having active partners during this reporting period.

**Table 5. Performance Indicators for January–June 2011**

Performance Indicator	Number of Youth or Mentors		
No. of program youth served during reporting period	28,987		
No. of program youth served using an evidence-based program or model	28,406		
No. of program mentors recruited	8,328		
Performance Indicator	Completed	Total Number	Percent
No. and percent of program youth completing program requirements	6,335	8,546	74%
No. and percent of mentors successfully completing training during reporting period	7,914	8,021	99%
No. and percent of trained mentors with increased knowledge of the program area	8,451	18,679	45%
Mentor retention rate	17,240 active mentors	20,460 mentors	84%
Percent of mentoring programs with active partners	352 programs with active partners	384 mentoring programs	92%



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The next two tables reveal the offending levels among the youth served. Less than 1 percent committed a new offense while in the program (Table 6), whereas 50 percent committed a new offense 6 to 12 months after program completion (Table 7). The majority of programs under this solicitation have active partners, indicating widespread community involvement and buy-in, which is essential to the success of mentoring programs. Moreover, the mentor retention rate for these programs is relatively high—84 percent—which is also a likely contributor to the program’s overall success.

**Table 6. Performance Indicators for January–June 2011: Short-Term Offending Data**

Performance Indicator		Number of Youth
No. of program youth tracked for new delinquent offenses during reporting period (short-term)		24,112
	No. of program youth who had a new arrest or delinquent offense during reporting period	217
	No. of youth recommitted to a juvenile facility during reporting period	35
	No. of youth sentenced to adult prison during reporting period	1
	No. of youth with other sentence during reporting period	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>217/24,112 0.90%</b>

**Table 7. Performance Indicators for January–June 2011: Long-Term Offending Data**

Performance Indicator		Number of Youth
No. of program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago who were tracked for new delinquent offenses (long-term)		260
	No. of program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago who had a new arrest or delinquent offense during reporting period	131
	No. of program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to a juvenile facility during reporting period	6
	No. of program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to adult prison during reporting period	0
	No. of program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and received another sentence during reporting period	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>131/260 50%</b>

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Table 8 shows the percentages of youth who exhibited improvement in selected target behaviors (short-term). Participating youth demonstrated the most improvement in gang-resistance involvement (100 percent), antisocial behavior (82 percent), and GPA (69 percent).

**Table 8. Target Behaviors for January–June 2011**

Target Behavior	No. of Youth Served with Intended Behavior Change	No. of Youth Served	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	6,302	9,654	65%
School Attendance	3,841	9,262	41%
GPA	383	558	69%
GED	0	0	0%
Perception of Social Support	567	958	59%
Family Relationships	486	887	55%
Antisocial Behavior	709	860	82%
Substance Use	33	226	15%
Gang-Resistance Involvement	41	41	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,362</b>	<b>22,446</b>	<b>55%</b>

### 3. Examination of Narrative Data

#### *Program Goals Accomplished: January–June 2011*

An analysis of the ARRA Mentoring narrative response data revealed several significant accomplishments of the grantees during this reporting period. For example, the Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) of Family Service, Inc. reported screening and training 10 potential mentors. In addition, program staff presented 101 “free things to do with your mentee,” as well as other helpful suggestions for developing a positive relationship. Outreach and recruitment activities continued for mentors through the posting of flyers and brochures throughout the community. In addition, information was presented to various sites including churches, community colleges, community agencies, and radio spots. Program staff also provided a series of mentor/mentee workshops covering such topics as the consequences of dropping out of school and the impact of incarceration on child development. Enjoyable social events also were provided, including a trip to the aquarium and a softball game/cookout for the mentor/mentees and their families.

The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc. graduated 36 high school students from its Chase Leadership Academy. This 8-month mentoring program provides educational opportunities in a highly interactive learning environment to help students obtain essential career skills. It provides sessions on life skills such as goal setting and critical thinking. It also offers sessions on career skills such as handling change at work, dealing with difficult people, developing team building skills, and creating a resume. Financial literacy workshops were also provided, including the benefits of saving, the value of credit, needs vs. wants, and the burden of debt. Upon successful completion of the program, each student receives a computer. The grantee was also able to implement its new community partnership with Life Choices – Mentoring of MOMs, a mentoring program serving at-risk pregnant teens.

Helping Services for Northeast Iowa, Inc. reported launching a recruitment campaign in January in honor of National Mentoring Month. This campaign included a visual of a mentor and mentee on a pop (soda) can,

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the theme being "Mentoring Can... Refresh your inner kid." The organization's recruitment plan also targets Facebook users in the area with a Facebook ad, page, and group. The grantee noted that its programs were able to recruit and initially train 11 new mentors during the reporting period. Similarly, Clinton Community Schools reported adding 18 new mentors during this reporting period. They also added 23 new youth to the program.

The Sacramento County Office of Education reported that its project with two mentoring program models is in operation at all seven of its target sites (three middle schools and four alternative high schools). Both programs—Friday Night Live Mentoring (cross-age model) and LINKS Mentoring (adult volunteer model)—had very successful years. Mentors in both programs are recruited and complete an application, interview, and training process. Additional mentor meetings are conducted throughout the year, with fall and spring trainings coupled with weekly "rap sessions" for the high school mentors, and periodic "Mentor Gatherings" for adult mentors. Baseline data and progress data reveal that these programs are generating the desired outcomes.

Likewise, Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota demonstrated that its program has made a positive impact on students' academic, attendance, and discipline records at school. Students reported that they felt excited at school. In addition, one major goal of the program is to let the students involved know that the community cares about them and what they do. To measure this, the organization asked students if there are any adults who care about what happens to them. Fully 96.5 percent of students responded positively to this question. The grantee also reported that it is fortunate to have an exemplary staff, with employees constantly enhancing their skills.

According to recent student and parent satisfaction surveys, DREAMS of Wilmington, Inc. has also continued to provide programming that builds self-esteem, self-efficacy, and strong family involvement in economically disadvantaged youth at risk for delinquency, gang involvement, substance abuse, and school dropout. All three of the program's high school seniors are graduating and going on to college—no small accomplishment in a county where the high school graduation rate for youth living in poverty is just 56 percent. In addition, one of the program's seniors was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from Dell, Inc., as well as a scholarship from a local women's business group; another senior was nominated for the YWCA Teen Achievement Award; and a third was accepted to the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts for its summer modern dance program. DREAMS has also addressed the root causes of delinquency, negative behavior, and school dropout by empowering its Teen Council to conduct several activities: raise awareness about the program at events, enhance college readiness skills through tours and assistance with applications, cultivate leadership skills through retreats and weekly sessions, and perform public service.

### *Problems/Barriers Encountered: January–June 2011*

In addition to their accomplishments, ARRA Mentoring grantees reported encountering a few significant problems/barriers this reporting period that prevented them from reaching their goals or milestones. Overwhelmingly, programs continue to struggle with parents and mentors not returning phone calls. Due to lack of communication, some matches have gone weeks without seeing each other, causing program staff to provide intense match support to get the pairs reconnected.

Another challenge continues to be the recruitment of male mentors from the community who are able to pass all screening procedures. Due to the lack of male mentors in the programs, male mentees often have to wait for months for a mentor. When an appropriate male mentor becomes available, most of the male mentees are no longer interested in participating in the program or have aged out. Likewise, one grantee pointed out that there remains the potential to touch many children's lives through mentoring programs, but that a limited number of volunteers are available. Every child could use a mentor, but unfortunately, not every adult is able to volunteer. Furthermore, organizations indicated that the availability of quality mentors willing to spend time with at-risk youth could be a challenge in rural areas.

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Program staff also have noticed poor attendance at mentor ongoing trainings. One organization sent all mentors a survey asking the reasons for lack of interest. The grantee reported that most mentors did not return the survey, while most who did were very vague in their answers. Some, however, indicated that they couldn't attend because of work conflicts or because they simply were not interested.

Other organizations reported subgrantees dropping out of their mentoring programs, resulting in fewer students than expected being served. Grantees also are working to find more effective means of coordinating partnerships and gathering the required documentation from subcontractors. Similarly, one grantee reported a lack of cohesiveness among the programs in its school district and among schools in the same district. That is, these schools struggled to identify themselves as part of a larger program. Still other schools did not welcome mentors into their building, which caused confusion as program staff recruited.

Another overarching problem is the lack of potential funds. Programs rely heavily on Federal grant funds. To sustain these programs, alternative sources of income must be identified and pursued.

### *Requested OJJDP Assistance: January–June 2011*

A few ARRA Mentoring grantees answered yes to the question of whether OJJDP could provide any assistance to address the problems/barriers they've encountered this reporting period. One of the most frequent requests was additional resources, such as webinars, trainings, and research materials, that would help grantees develop strategies to recruit and retain more male mentors.

Another organization asked OJJDP to continue to support its budget and program goal revisions as it discovers what is most effective. As this grantee demonstrated, organizations have to be willing to make adjustments as they learn what works, to discover barriers and solutions, and ultimately to make their programs more effective. This is particularly important for new mentoring programs.

In addition, grantees proposed that OJJDP develop a mentoring evaluation project through which all mentoring programs collect the same information to inform future mentoring work.